

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are pending herein. Claims 1-12 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 15 have been amended hereby to correct matters of form and for clarification purposes only. Claim 13 has also been amended to recite the features originally presented in claim 14, and claim 14 has been cancelled hereby in favor of rewritten claim 13. New claim 20 has been added hereby to recite that the concentration of the oxidation agent is in a range of 10 ppm to 300 ppm, as supported on page 15, line 27 – page 16, line 2 of the present specification and original claim 8, for example. In the specification, the paragraph preceding the Background Section and the section heading on page 10 were amended to correct minor matters of form, and the Abstract has been revised to correct minor matters of form, as well.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 1-12 are allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that the changes to claims 1, 3, 5 and 8 made hereby are directed to minor matters of form only.
2. Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 13 has been rewritten hereby to incorporate the limitations of claim 14, and that claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 13 is now in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 15-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 13, all claims pending herein are now in condition for allowance.
3. The §102(b) rejection of claim 13 over JP '413 is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above.

4. The §102(b) rejection of claim 13 over JP '391 is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above. Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

5. The §102(b) rejection of claims 13 and 16 over Ellis et al. is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is also in condition for allowance by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 13.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

6. The §103(a) rejection of claim 15 over JP '413 is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above.

That is, Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 13 defines patentable subject matter over the art of record, claim 15 is also in condition for allowance by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

7. The §103(a) rejections of claims 17 and 18 over JP '413, JP '319 or Ellis, all in view of Koller, are noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 depends from independent claim 13 and claim 18 depends from claim 17. Since independent claim 13 is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 are also in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 13.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

8. The §103(a) rejection of claim 19 over JP '413, JP '319, Ellis and Koller in further view of Park is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 13 submitted above.

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Claim 19 depends from claim 17, which in turn depends from independent claim 13. Since independent claim 13 is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is also in condition for allowance by virtue of its indirect dependency from independent claim 13.

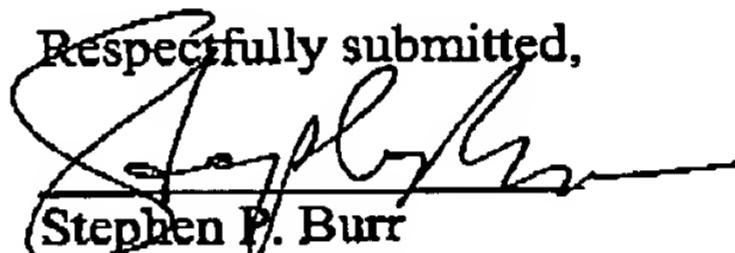
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

August 7, 2003
Date

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Respectfully submitted,

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